Sea-Lion Slaying Condemned — *Shooting Wrong, Says Naturalist*

Trigger-Happy Sportsmen Lashed for 'Sordid Killing'

The "trigger-happy attitude of many so-called 'sportsmen'" was scored last night in the angry aftermath of Tuesday's slaying of a sea-lion in Saanich Inlet.

"The fact that seven bullets were used," said Victoria SPCA president Thomas Leach, "suggests that this guide may have been afraid to approach his quarry more closely and thus dispatch it with one well-directed and merciful shot."

The 2,000-pound bull sea-lion was shot in Brentwood Bay by Jim Creed, guide at Creed's Landing, Brentwood, who said he killed it because sea-lions destroy salmon.

Mr. Leach said "eminent authorities have stated that the loss of fish due to sea-lions is negligible. I accept this well-informed opinion over that of fishing guides.

"I whole-heartedly condemn this sordid killing, which exemplifies the trigger-happy attitude of many so-called 'sportsmen'."

He wondered "what the attitude of the RCMP is to using rifles over water where bullets ricochet dangerously. And I understand that all shooting is prohibited in Saanich," he added.

Mr. Creed's action was wrong, said Dr. Clifford Carl, Provincial Museum director, and there was no "justification for killing the mammal."

He said recent studies by the Nanaimo biological station show that sea-lions subsist mainly on coarse fish such as bullheads, sculpins, flounders and other varieties of non-commercial fish.

Sea-lions are protected in the United States, Dr. Carl noted.

Biologists or game wardens should be consulted before animals or birds are killed, said Mrs. H. W. S. Soulsby, Victoria Natural History Society president.

"There is no excuse," she said, "in this enlightened age to kill an animal on the spot.

"We have experts who are quite capable of controlling animals if they become a nuisance."

People are deprived of the chance to see an interesting mammal when sea-lions are killed, she added.

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Laing Warns Bennett:

Socred Labor Talk Civil War Risk

* * *

ARTHUR LAING

Repetition Of 1958 Disastrous

A call for Premier W. A. C. Bennett and his government to make sure that their future steps in the field of labor relations were on the road to peace, instead of along the path to civil war, was sounded last night by provincial Liberal leader Arthur Laing.

Mr. Laing was addressing the Sooke and Otter Point Liberal Association in Sooke Community Hall.

CAN'T STAND MORE

"British Columbia," he said, "cannot stand in 1959 a repetition of industrial strikes and lockouts such as were experienced in 1958. A prolonged strike in the lumber industry would cripple its entire economy.

"This field of labor relations is not the primary responsibility of the government at all.

DEBT TO SOCIETY

"Employers and employees owe it to society to get along with one another. Government's responsibility is restricted to facilitating good relations between these two opposing units. That is the only justification for any labor legislation now on the books.

"It is my opinion that any restrictive legislation at this time would inflame labor to a point where we would again have trouble . . . .

FEARS, HOPES

"It is important that employers acquaint themselves with the fears and aspirations of their employees. Too many in this province do not . . .

"Conversely, some labor union leaders are demanding wages in this province that are wholly unrealistic in the light of world market prices for the commodities by which we must live . . ."

Mr. Laing was critical of the province's power situation.

COST-PLUS SHOW

"Why is it," he wanted to know, "that in power-rich British Columbia we have so far developed only 3,000,000 horsepower—and that at prohibitive rates?

"I am very unhappy at the actions of a public utilities commission which seems to have believed that such utilities should just be run as a cost-plus show . . .

CONTROL LOST

"Social Credit has completely lost for us control of the province's power sources—and these must be recovered by the next government.

"We are even selling natural gas in the state of Washington at two-thirds the price charged Canadians in the land of their birth."

INTERNAL INFLATION

Mr. Laing was alarmed by a "most serious state of internal inflation" in B.C. for which, he said, Premier Bennett must take his full share of responsibility.

He recalled a recent occasion on which 11 members of the Social Credit government, including one cabinet minister, said they favored a moratorium on private debt.

"We may well ask," said Mr. Laing, "what kind of good times have we had in this province if we can think of moratoriums? Much more important, a moratorium in B.C. would end all business tomorrow morning, because then everything would have to be done on a cash basis."

Better Eating Free

A better-eating plan in connection with the Lelord Kordel series "Stay Alive Longer" is available free to readers of The Daily Colonist.

Copies of the better-eating program may be obtained by writing to this newspaper and enclosing a self-addressed envelope with a five-cent stamp.

Today's article by the well-known authority is on Page 14.

Pensioners DO Live on $55

Mr. Bruch —You're Mistaken!

By TED SHACKLEFORD

Colonist reporter Ted Shackleford has been assigned to live on $55 for a month to discover how senior citizens on old-age assistance payments live and what their problems are.

He will be available in The Daily Colonist office—EV 3-4111 — between 4 and 5 p.m. each day.

Some 900 Greater Victoria pensioners, and myself, were amazed this morning to read that they don't have to live on $55 a month.

The claim was made by Herbert Bruch, a Social Credit MLA who represents Esquimalt, during a speech in the legislature Tuesday.

Mr. Bruch is wrong and it seems he can't have read very closely the series which he chose to criticize. Perhaps he could read the columns which were published Jan. 28, Feb. 5, Feb. 7 and Feb. 14.

Mr. Bruch might also chat to William Hooson, city welfare officer; Glen Hamilton, executive director of the Greater Victoria Community Welfare Council, and some of the pensioners who DO have to live on the bare $55 a month cheque.

Further in his speech, Mr. Bruch also criticized the fact that pensioners live in the city, rather than "out further."

He claimed there was proper housing for pensioners on the outskirts of cities.

One of the big problems facing pensioners, particularly single ones, who are in the majority, is boredom.

It's the boredom of only having a single housekeeping room in which to live, few close friends—and most of them living too far away to visit very often, the boredom of looking at four walls they have looked at for months or years, and will probably look at till the end of their lives.

Perhaps Mr. Bruch has not had to live and eat and sleep in a single room.

One way to relieve that boredom is to mingle with people, attend auctions, spend a few hours sitting in the sun or inside a warm building, window shopping, wandering through stores and looking at all the attractive things they can't afford to buy.

And it means a lot to pensioners to be near these small, cheap amusements.

More, apparently, than Mr. Bruch realizes.

* * *

Yesterday I spent a further 48 cents, lowering my finances to $11.61. I bought two small cans of tomato paste (23 cents), a loaf of stale cracked wheat bread (15 cents), and three cup cakes (10 cents.)

Breakfast was a bowl of cracked wheat with reconstituted milk and a little sugar, lunch was a few mouthfuls of turkey, ham and potato salad gulped down when I visited the opening of the Langford 50-UP Club's new clubrooms and the three cup cakes later in the afternoon.

For dinner I cooked some of the spaghetti I bought early this month, used a can of tomato paste as a sauce for the spaghetti and used the rest of the can of beans.

I will spend my second night as a baby-sitter tomorrow—the last I have allowed myself.

$150,000 Barge Contract Announced by Shipyard

Victoria Machinery Depot yesterday announced a $150,000 contract to build a steel barge for the Arctic Shipping Company of Edmonton.

H. S. Hammill, general manager, said the contract means that projected layoffs at VMD can be postponed. He said the work force will be stabilized at about 540.

The yard also has a $3,000,000 contract for a B.C. government ferry in hand. Steel for this job is expected tomorrow, and fabrication work will start next week. Loft work is already in progress.

Pranksters at Victoria College locked main gates yesterday during ceremonies at new Ewing wing and blocked side gates with parked cars. They said it was done to repel "attack" by Canadian Service College's cadets seeking return of cannon taken from Royal Roads the night before and transported to Victoria College. Attack did not materialize. Hi-jinks yesterday topped others earlier in week.

Gunners Bag Own Jeep

First "kill" for HMCS Ottawa, which arrived in Esquimalt yesterday to join Pacific fleet, was ship's own jeep, shattered during gunnery practice at sea on way from Halifax. Gunner LS Angus Whiteley painted jeep insignia on gun cover. Concussion from guns tore out seats, shattered windshield of jeep secured to deck under after turret.—(Colonist photo)

Cannon Caper Causes Crisis

Back-breaking "theft" of an historic cannon from Canadian Services College, Royal Roads, recoiled on Victoria College pranksters yesterday.

They now have the job of transporting the 1,300-pound ancient brass firearm back to Royal Roads.

Lt.-Cmdr. S. C. Croucher, Royal Roads spokesman, last night said cadets would not undertake to bring the stolen cannon back from the Victoria College grounds about 10 miles away.

He said he had spoken to Victoria College authorities and been assured the cannon would be returned. "Arrangements" had been made, he said.

"It is not the sort of publicity sought by a services' college," he said.

But college principal Dr. Harry Hickman was not so certain about the cannon's return. He said last night he had not heard of any plans on the part of college students to transport it back.

"But I have no doubt it will get back safely," he added.

Dr. Hickman said he didn't think any disciplinary action would be taken against the cannon "thieves." He described the theft as "a typical college prank — innocent and rather clever."

The old-time cannon, described as "purely ornamental" is one of two that normally sit outside the classrooms building at the Royal Roads services' college.

It disappeared "sometime during the night" from its customary location, Lt.-Cmdr. Croucher said. "—We were later informed it had appeared at Victoria College."

CHAINED, LOCKED

At the college the cannon was given a high monkey shine by students and chained and padlocked to entrance of the new Ewing Building where it was an unexpected feature of opening day ceremonies at the new building.

Its presence on the ground led to a number of complications involving Premier W. A. C. Bennett and Education Minister Leslie Peterson among others.

During the ceremonies students locked the main gates to the grounds after hearing a report Royal Roads cadets were coming to get their cannon back. They also blocked side gates with parked cars.

As a result Mr. Peterson and the driver of the government car had to get out and push a parked vehicle out of the road before the premier's party could leave the grounds. (See picture on Page 7.)

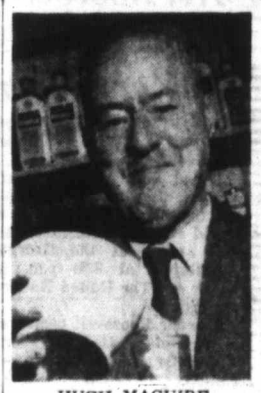
LOVE, PHIL

A student-posted sign on the locked gate read: "Sorry for your inconvenience. Love, Phil."

About a score of energetic and adventurous students took part in a raid on Royal Roads, according to reports.

They wheeled the old gun out of the grounds around midnight and struggled with it through the woods for nearly a mile before getting it out on the road. It was then brought into the city by truck, set up at the college during the day.

The stunt climaxed a series of pranks in recent days that have drawn attention to the college, by coincidence now involved in a proposed building fund drive for next year.



HUGH MAGUIRE

* * *

Seen in Passing

Hugh Maguire mixing up a prescription. (A druggist since 1913, he has had a store on Craigflower Road for 35 years. He served in the medical corps during the First World War. His hobbies are photography and golfing) . . . **Bob Page** looking forward to income tax time . . . **Sheila McIvor** and granddaughter **Cheryl Druce** mourning the passing of a sea-lion which they had often watched swimming from Oak Bay Beach Hotel.

One-Man Campaign

'Ineligible Ballots' Passed Parking Law, Says Smith

Victoria's parking bylaw would not have passed except for the "ineligible ballots" cast, city MLA Donald Smith charged last night.

Fighting practically a one-man campaign to have the parking plan returned to the voters, the busy member appeared at meetings of both the Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Victoria Labor Council.

"Why has the city refused my request to have the ballots examined?" he asked.

"What have they got to hide?"

Mr. Smith announced that he intends to demand a public inquiry of the inspector of municipal affairs at 11 a.m. Monday.

"I'm also going to demand at city council today that they give the voters another chance to vote on this bylaw. They didn't know the story before," he said.

"I know of many people who were mistakenly given ballots they had no right to," he said.

"I was given one myself but I turned it back." He said while voting for his company as a tennant-elector he was given a ballot on the parking bylaw.

"But the parking bylaw was for owner-electors only," he said. "In many other cases, ballots were mistakenly handed to resident-electors, who also can't vote on money bylaws.

"But they did," he added.

Ald. Hugh Ramsay, who was an unscheduled guest at the Jaycee meeting took "strong exception" to Mr. Smith's remarks.

"I find it difficult," he said, "to answer in a level, controlled way.

"The implication all down the line," he said of Mr. Smith's speech, "is that there is some hanky-panky going on . . ."

"If you have some special information or evidence which you can prove in a court of law . . . I don't know . . ." Ald. Ramsay said.

"Are you opposed to having a public inquiry?" Ald. Smith asked Ald. Ramsay.

"I see no reason why I should be opposed," answered Ald. Ramsay.

The labor council decided to send a letter to city council urging that the parking bylaw go back to the voters.

A representative will also be sent to city council meeting today.

Budget Parley 'Mistake'

Acting Mayor Arthur Dowell is sure there is a misunderstanding about the nature of a proposed "budget" meeting between aldermen and the Chamber of Commerce

Eric Mallett, chairman of the chamber group, said that tax policies and the mill rate were to be discussed at the end of the month.

Acting Mayor Dowell said the mayor couldn't have agreed.

"We won't even have the estimates by then," he said.

Anyway, he said, "I don't think any member of council would stand for the chamber having anything to do with the city budget."